



Fig. 1. An abnormal specimen of *Channa orientalis*

28. AN ABNORMAL SPECIMEN OF *CHANNA ORIENTALIS* SCHNEIDER (PISCES : CHANNIDA) FROM TRIPURA

(With a text-figure)

No species under the genus *Channa* of the Channidae family or even the order Channiformes, or from any freshwater fish family, is so far known with two anal fins or an anal fin in two parts. During taxonomic studies of the fish fauna of Tripura, north-east India, an interesting specimen of the genus *Channa* was found. On examination it proved to be an abnormal specimen of *C. orientalis*, having two anal fins or, rather, a single fin separated by 5 to 6 scales from each other. Anal fin with two parts, first part with 15 rays and second part with 5 rays.

Material examined: 1 ex., 186 mm. TL.; Reg. No. Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta FF 2665; Deo river,

Kanchanpur, north Tripura; R.P. Barman and party; 21 October 1989.

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29. FIRST RECORD OF THE BELONTID FISH *MACROPODUS CUPANUS* VALENCIENNES FROM PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

(With a text-figure)

While collecting shrimp in the shallow waters of the river Mutha in a stretch with plenty of aquatic vegetation, a small fish was collected near Vitthalwadi, Maharashtra, in January 1990. The fish looked different from those usually caught. It was brought alive and kept in the laboratory for a week. The colour was greenish, being slightly darker near the dorsal fin. The first ray of each ventral fin was produced into a long scarlet red filament that nearly reached up to the anterior one-third of the anal fin. The soft portion of the dorsal fin was dotted with small black spots, while the distal portion of the anal fin in the posterior one-third showed a large, conspicuous black mark. The caudal fin was lanceolate and was barred with distinct black spots. Many of these characters can be seen even in alcohol preserved specimens (Fig. 1). The total

length of the fish was 45 mm. From Day's book it was identified as *Polyacanthus cupanus*. Later, after its death, the fish was properly preserved and examined carefully. It matched well with the description given by Day (1865, 1889). The fish is now named *Macropodus cupanus* Valenciennes, as given by Jayaram (1981), who also confirmed our identification.

A search of the literature on fishes of Pune (formerly Poona) indicated that *Macropodus* has not so far been recorded from Pune or nearby areas (Fraser 1942 a, b, Hora and Misra 1942, Suter 1943, Tonapi and Mulherkar 1963).

Day (1865) cited the habitat of this fish as "fresh waters of Malabar and Coromandel." Later (1889) he commented that the fish is "often found in ditches, paddy fields